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March 9, 2000

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Ms. Jane Henney, MD, Commissioner
Food and Drug Administration
5600 Fishers Lane,
Rockville, Md. 20857

Dear Commissioner Henney:

I wish to address the proposal you have under consideration, regarding the requirement that all hearing aid dispensers be audiologists.

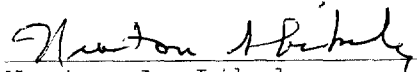
Commissioner, this will put the possibility of purchasing hearing aids out of reach of many people like myself. The extreme markup these people enjoy is outrageous. They seem to have a close working relationship with each other, and now they want the Federal Government to insure the elimination of any competition from sources that can operate more efficiently.

Federal requirements now require a guarantee of these devices for a certain period of time. So the protections necessary to insure against unscrupulous operators is in place.

I have purchased two hearing aids by mail order, and the results have been excellent. In one instance, some difficulty was encountered, and these people bent over backwards to solve the problem (Hearmore Co. replaced the hearing aid, no questions asked).

It is requested that any consideration of change governing hearing aid dispensing be disallowed. The present system works fine, and provides more than adequate protection for the consumer.

Very Truly Yours,


Newton A. Likely

c/c Excel Hearing Solutions ✓
Hearmore Co.

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